National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

	complete applicable se			
1. Nam	е			
historic	Cori House			
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	1080 North Berry Ro	ad	_	not for publication
city, town	Glendale	vicinity of		
state	Missouri code	29 county	St. Louis	code 189
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership publicX_ private both Public Acquisition in process being considered XN/A	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted _X_ no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		
name	C. Thomas and E. Be	olle Cori		
street & number	1080 North Berry Ro			
city, town	Glendale	vicinity of S1	- Louis state	Missouri 63122
5. Loca	tion of Lega			111300411 001112
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^{city, town} 6. Repr	esentation i	n Existing	Surveys	Missouri 63122
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depository for su	rvey records St. Loui	s County Departmer	nt of Parks and Rec	reation
city, town	41_South	Central Avenue	Clayton,state	Missouri 63105

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cori House is a two-story brick structure set in a thickly wooded lot of slightly under an acre at the southeast corner of Berry Road and the street called Berry Road Park. The house sits near the southeastern corner of its lot, which is thickly screened on all sides by both deciduous and evergreen trees. A rise in the ground toward the south permits the garage to be placed in the north end of the basement, while the front door in the center of the west facade is up five steps and the porch door at the south end is up only two. The massing of the house, much like a cubist sculpture, is achieved by setting back the second story at the northwest corner and the south end, by extending the first floor at the southwest and southeast corners, and by extending screened porches south from the south end of the house at both first and second floors.

The mottled orange brick was originally painted white but has weathered to a pale organic color. The first floor extensions are parapetted with a Wright-like pattern of vertical and horizontal stretchers and headers. A dark brown wooden fascia of three bands caps the second story. Many of the windows are vertical casements set in banks that turn the corners; those on the first floor have matching transoms. The wall to the right of the front door is further patterned with a series of alternating recessed courses underlining the extended door hood, and by a two-step brick planter. Worked into the brick above the front door is a stick figure seated at the cut-back corner of the parapet.

The second-floor exterior wall surfaces are plastered in a rough fan pattern, those at the northwest corner balcony and facing the southeast parapet. The balcony, approached by a west door, has a wooden railing of three turned horizontals which extend beyond the corner along the front wall to the left of the front door. The door itself is paneled in a diamond-pattern of slightly convex moldings. The fascia of the flat hood above the door is decorated by a row of triangular cutouts. To the left of the door are three square windows set high in the first-floor wall. The north end of this wall is extended by a low retaining wall which separates the front walk from the much lower driveway.

At the south end of the first floor a wide flat chimney rises, and the space between it and the main second floor wall has been enclosed as a screened porch. The roof of this porch is a continuation of the lowest of the three fascia boards. Beyond the chimney to the south extends the first-floor screened porch, which ends at a brick planter with two piers.

The Cori House is well maintained and remains remarkable for its clear aesthetic expression. It retains all of its significant interior features, most notably the square staircase with skylight. The living room has a fireplace, built-in cabinets and shelving, and a wooden ceiling designed as squares filled with diagonally-placed planks. The woodwork of the staircase is slightly streamlined, and the doorjambs in the formal rooms are nearly a foot wide and fluted. The one notable alteration in the house's fifty years has been the squaring off of the screened porch at the southeast corner, where once the door opened to the south two bays from the corner.

8. Significance

1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	music philosophy	X science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
X 1900	communications	industry invention	politics/government	transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1935	Builder/Architect	/Harr	ris Armstrona

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cori House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C. Under Criterion B it is associated with the lives of persons significant in the history of science, Carl and Gerty Cori, the husband and wife who shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 1947. Their articles on the enzymatic reactions between glucose and glycogen, which began to receive international attention in 1942, were based on their identification of the enzyme phosphorylase in 1935, the same year they built this house. Under Criterion C, the house embodies the distinctive characteristics of the newly emerging international style of architecture. It is the work of Harris Armstrong, one of the foremost architects in St. Louis and recognized as the dean of the modern movement here.

The house at 1080 North Berry Road in Glendale has the signal distinction of having been the long-time home of not one but two Nobel Prize winners, Drs. Carl and Gerty Cori, who won in 1947 for their work on the enzymatic reactions between glucose and glycogen. The house is also significant as an early example, perhaps the first in the St. Louis area, of an international-style residence. It was designed by one of the regions' foremost architects, Harris Armstrong.

THE CORIS

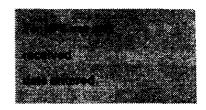
"More than any other award in science, a Nobel Prize in physics, chemistry or physiology or medicine proclaims that the recipient has made a truly significant contribution to human understanding." 1

Carl Ferdinand and Gerty Theresa Cori met at the Carl Ferdinand University of Prague, a city in which they had both been born in 1896. She was the daughter of a sugar refiner, while his father was a zoologist who named his son for the University. They obtained M.D. degrees in 1920 and were married that August. After a period of graduate research in Vienna, he went in 1922 to the State Institute for the Study of Malignant Diseases in Buffalo (later the Roswell Park Memorial Institute). She followed six months later. They came to Washington University Medical School in St. Louis in 1931, he as professor of pharmacology and she as research assistant. She later became professor of biological chemistry and he headed that department.

Both Coris had written regularly for the professional press since the year of their graduation, but beginning in 1942 they attracted much attention with a series of articles in the Journal of Biological Chemistry explaining their crystal-lization and subsequent study of phosphorylase. This enzyme, which the Coris had recognized in 1935, proved to be the key to the process by which glycogen, or animal starch, is broken down into the glucose, or sugar, needed to fuel the body. By developing a synthetic method of preparing phosphorylase, the Coris were able to study under laboratory conditions the complex functions performed within the living cell.

9.	Majo	r Bib	liogra	phic	al Re	fere	nces	<u> </u>	 		
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Recognition of this work began in March, 1946, when the Coris received the Midwest award of the American Chemical Society, St. Louis section, at a ceremony attended by three previous Nobel prizewinners resident in St. Louis: Arthur Holly Compton, Joseph Erlanger, and Edward A. Doisy. (Both Compton's and Erlanger's homes are National Historic Landmarks.)⁵ In November Carl Cori won a Lasker Award from the American Public Health Association. 6 The next April he recieved a five-thousand dollar sugar research prize from the National Science Fund of the National Academy of Science. The Nobel Prize that October, shared with Dr. B. A. Houssay of Buenos Aires, only increased the pace rate of other awards. The couple shared the Squibb award in endocrinology in 1947 and the St. Louis Award in 1948.8 Carl Cori received the Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society in 1947 and the next year received an honorary degree from Cambridge University. 9 In 1950 he was named a member of the Royal Society along with Enrico Fermi. 10 Gerty Cori was named by the Associated Press one of the outstanding women of 1947. In 1948 she received the Garvan Medal from the American Chemical Society and other awards from the Women's National Press Club and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and she was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the fourth woman in the history of the organization to be so honored. In 1950 she won the Borden Foundation Award of the Association of American Medical Colleges. 12 Later that year President Harry Truman appointed her to the twenty-four-member National Science Board of the recently created National Science Foundation. 13 She received honorary degrees from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York; Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts; the University of Rochester; Boston University; Yale and Columbia. 14

Gerty Cori died on October 26, 1957. At the service in her memory, Dr. Houssay, her fellow Nobel laureate, declared that "her name is engraved for all time in the annals of science." In 1960 Carl Cori married Mrs. Robert McKittrick Jones, the former Anne Fitz-Gerald of St. Louis. He retired from Washington University in 1966 and moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he continued his research at Massachusetts General Hospital. He died October 20, 1984. Dr. William H. Danforth, Chancellor of Washington University, called him "a great scientist and a great producer of scientific talent." In

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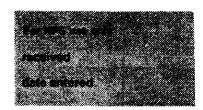
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THE HOUSE

The Coris bought their acre lot in Glendale on March 21, 1934. The next year, perhaps having in mind the impending birth of their child (a son, Carl Thomas), they commissioned Harris Armstrong to design a house for the site. Armstrong (1899-1973) was just then making a name for himself as the earliest exponent of the International Style in this part of the country, most notably with an office in Clayton for Dr. Leo Shanley, a building which won a prize at the Paris exposition of 1937. By this time the International Style was already becoming established in the larger cities of the country, but Armstrong had found St. Louis with "its conservative, even reactionary tendencies" slow to follow. The Museum of Modern Art's landmark 1932 exhibition organized by Henry Russell Hitchcock, and Philip Johnson 19 had given its name to a way of building (and more importantly a philosophy of architecture) that had arisen in Europe in the 1920s in the work of Walter Gropius, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, J.J.P. Oud and Le Corbusier. 20 Examples of the style had appeared on the West Coast in the houses of Rudolph Schindler and Richard Neutra, notably the latters' Lovell "Health" House of 1928-29.²¹ In New York Raymond Hood's McGraw Hill Building was completed in 1931, while the PSFS tower by George Howe and William Lescaze opened in Philadelphia the following year. 22 George Fred Keck had introduced the style to the Midwest in 1929 with his Miralago Ballroom near Wilmette, and the model houses he built for the Chicago World's Fair of 1933-34 were widely seen. 23 Armstrong had admired Keck's House of Tomorrow at the fair; and he had worked for Raymond Hood on early designs for Rockefeller Center in 1930.

After his work for Dr. Shanley and the Coris, Armstrong found his architectural practice blossoming. He continued to receive commissions from physicians, resulting in noteworthy offices in Brentwood, Clayton, Kirkwood, Richmond Heights, Webster Groves and the City of St. Louis as well as a particularly splendid house overlooking the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers for Dr. Evarts Graham, a colleague of the Coris. In 1950 Armstrong built a new school of Medicine for Washington University. By then, he was doing major projects in the St. Louis area. including the Magic Chef office building with its lobby ceiling by Isamu Noguchi, and the seven million dollar engineering campus for McDonnell-Douglas.²⁴ He was awarded fourth prize in the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial competition, the only local architect to place.²⁵ Outside this area he designed the new Federal Building in Kansas City, the officer's club at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the U.S. Consulate in Basra, Iraq. While his later work seldom achieved the clarity of stylistic coherence of his earlier designs, he remained highly respected, in effect the dean of the modern movement in St. Louis.²⁶

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Armstrong's work was frequently published from 1936 on, but the Cori house appeared only as the unidentified cover of American Painter and Decorator, September, 1938. (Vol. 15, No. 9), where it was "said to be the first modern design and execution in a St. Louis County home." Ironically the photo highlighted the whimsical brick man seated at the corner of the parapet above the entry, a feature of the house that would have been abhorent to the puritanical fathers of the International Style, but which is emblematic of the humanistic characters of both the architect and his clients.

In other respects, too, the house softens the rigors of modernism. Its exterior was white, the favored color of the International Style, but the material was not the usual stucco but brick laid in patterns and set off by dark wood detailing. Inside, the staircase is dramatically lit by a skylight, and the doorjambs are fluted. But overall the cubical, almost cubist massing, the flat roofs, the banked windows, the retaining wall of the driveway that extends the line of the front wall and other similar details express the International Style with more thoroughness than had previously been seen in St. Louis. The secluded location, surrounded by woods in a quiet residential neighborhood, and the retention of the house by the same family since its construction have limited the design's fame, but its significance in local architectural history is unquestioned.

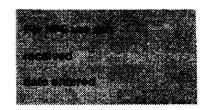
NOTES

- 1. Peter Gwynne "Another Kind of Scientific Method" (a review of The Nobel Duel by Nicholas Wade), The New York Time's Book Review, December 20, 1981, p. 8.
- 2. The chief biographical sources for the Coris are Carl F. Cori, "The call of Science," Annual Review of Biochemistry, Vol. 38 (1969), pp. 1-20; George McCue, "Cori + Cori = Nobel Prize," Science Illustrated; Vol. 3, No. 2 (February 1948), pp. 19-23, 70; St. Louis

 Post-Dispatch, "Drs. Carl and Gerty Cori Win Nobel Medicine Prize,"

 October 23, 1947.
- 3. Washington University Medical Library Reference Department, "Bibliography on Dr. Carl F. Cori, Dr. Gerty T. Cori," July 9, 1980.
- 4. These articles, all in the <u>Journal of Biological Chemistry</u>, had a variety of authorships: Arda Alden Green, Gerty T. Cori and Carl F. Cori, "Crystalline Muscle Phosphorylase", Vol. 142 No. 1, (1942), pp. 447-448; W. Z. Hassid, Gerty T. Cori and R. M. McCready,

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"Constitution of the Polysaccharide Synthesized by the Action of Crystalline Muscle Phosphorylase," Vol. 148, No. 1 (1943), pp. 88-96; "Crystalline Muscle Phosphorylase I. Preparation Properties and Molecular Weight" (Arda Alden Green and Gerti T. Cori) "II Prostetic Group", (Gerty T. Cori, Arda Alden Green) "III. Kinetics" (Carl F. Cori, Gerty T. Cori, and Arda Alden Green) "IV. Formation of Glycogen" (Gerty T. Cori and Carl F. Cori), Vol. 151, No. 1, pp. 21-63; Gerty T. Cori and Carl F. Cori, "The Enzymatic Conversion of Phosphorylase a to b," Vol. 158 No 2 (1945), pp. 321-332; Carl F. and Gerty T. Cori, "The Activity and Crystallization of Phosphorylase b," ibid. pp. 333-339; Gerty T. Cori, "The Effect of Stimulation and Recovery on the Phosphorylase a Content of Muscle."

- 5. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Doctors Cori of Washington University Receive Award," March 22, 1946.
- 6. Globe-Democrat, "Dr. Carl Cori Wins \$1000 Lasker Award," November 8, 1946.
- 7. Globe-Democrat, Washington University Man Wins Science Prize," April 29, 1947.
- 8. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "Drs. Carl F. and Gerty T. Cori Receive St. Louis Award for Medical Research," November 24, 1948.
- 9. Globe-Democrat, "Dr. Cori Awarded Willard Gibbs Medal," Feb. 16, 1948; Post-Dispatch, "Cori Gets Honorary Degree from Cambridge University," August 20, 1949.
- 10. Globe-Democrat, "Royal Society Names Dr. Carl Cori Member," April 29, 1950.
- 11. Post-Dispatch, "Dr. Gerty Cori to be Cited for Aid to Human Welfare,"

 April 18, 1948; St. Louis Star-Times, "Dr. Gerty T. Cori Adds

 Chemists' Medal to Awards," August 31, 1948; Globe-Democrat, "Dr.

 Gerty Cori Elected Member National Academy of Sciences," April 28,

 1948.
- 12. Post-Dispatch, "Dr. Gerty T. Cori Wins New Research Award," October 24, 1950.
- 13. Star-Times, "Dr. Gerty Cori on Science Board," November 3, 1950.

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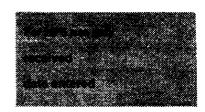
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- 14. Globe-Democrat, "Dr. Gerty Cori Dies; Nobel Prize Winner, Washington University Scientist," October 27, 1957; Post-Dispatch, "Dr. Gerty T. Cori, Scientist Who Shared Nobel Prize, Dies," October 27, 1957.
- 15. Globe-Democrat, "200 Honor Memory of Dr. Gerty Cori," December 16, 1957.
- 16. Post-Dispatch, "Dr. C. F. Cori to Wed Mrs. Robert McKittrick Jones, II," March 23, 1960.
- 17. Annual Review of Biochemistry, op. cit; "Carl F Cori," St. Louis
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 1984; William H. Danforth, "Touched by Greatness," Washington
 University Magazine, Vol. 55, No. 1 (Winter 1985),
 pp 30-31.
- 18. New York Times; "France Gives Awards to U.S. Architects," September 2, 1938, p. 17.
- 19. The catalogue was published as <u>The International Style</u> (New York: W.W. Norton, 1932 reprinted 1966).
- 20. Marcus Wiffen, American Architecture Since 1780 (Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press 1969, pp. 241-246.
- 21. The Lovell "Health" House has been recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 22. PSFS is a National Historic Landmark.
- 23. Narcisco G. Menocal, <u>Keck & Keck</u>, <u>Architects</u> (Madison, Wis.: Elvehjem Museum of Art, 1980); <u>Stuart E. Cohen Chicago Architects</u> (Chicago: The Swallow Press, 1976).
- 24. George McCue, The Building Art in St. Louis: Two Centuries (St. Louis: American Institute of Architects, 1981), pp. 103, 126. The Magic Chef building has been greatly altered and the Noguchi sculpture is now in the St. Louis Art Museum.
- 25. Sharon Brown, "Jefferson National Expansion Memorial: The 1947 Competition" Gateway Heritage, Vol. 1, No. 3 (Winter 1980), pp.40-48.

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26. Armstrong's papers are now housed at the Washington University School of Architecture, where the Harris Armstrong Memorial Lecture is given each autumn.

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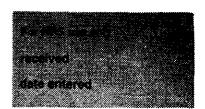
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- 3. The Blue Book. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1976, p. 359.
- 4. Cori, Carl F., "The Call of Science," Annual Review of Biochemistry, Vol. 38 (1969), pp. 1-20.
- 5. Danforth, William H., "Touched by Greatness," <u>Washington University Magazine</u>, Vol. 55, No. 1 (Winter 1985), pp. 30-31.
- 6. McCue, George. The Building Art in St. Louis: Two Centuries. St. Louis: American Institute of Architects, 1981.
- 7. "Cori + Cori = Nobel Prize," Science Illustrated, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Feb. 1948), pp. 19-23, 70.
- New York Times, "France Gives Awards to U. S. Architects," September 2, 1938, p. 17.
- 9. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Dr. Gerty Cori Dies; Nobel Prize Winner, Washington University Scientist," October 27, 1957.

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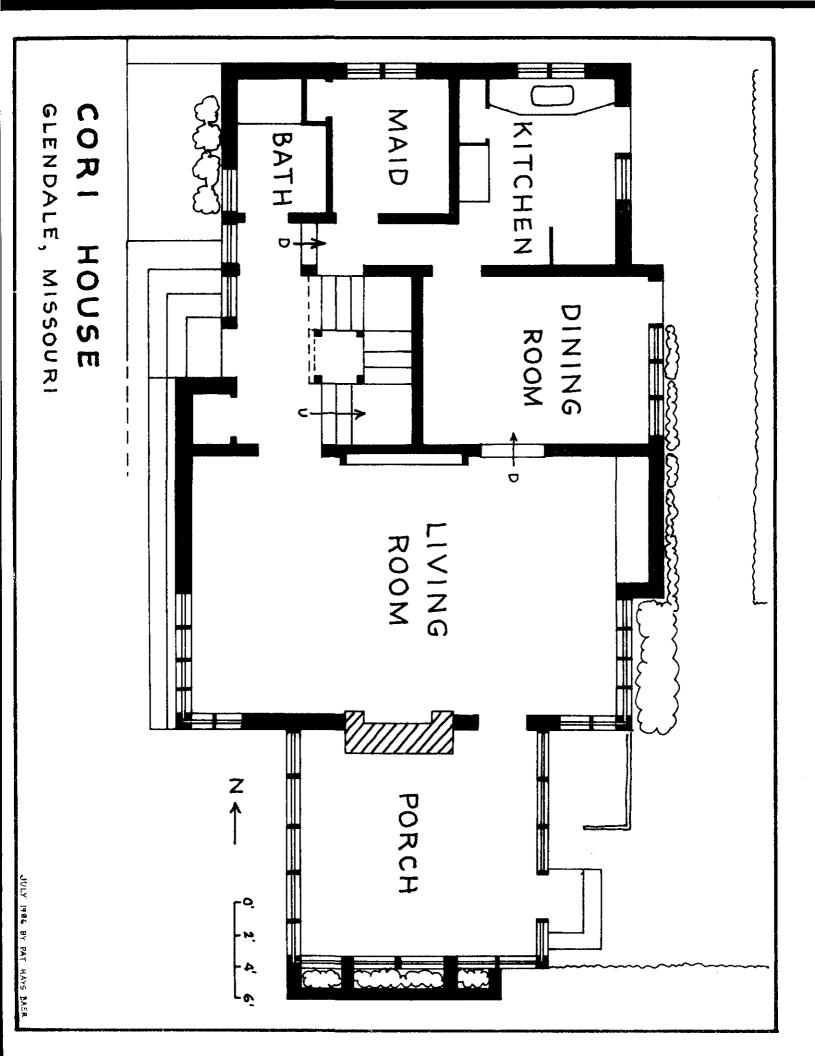
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2. James M. Denny Chief, Survey & Registration and State Contact Person Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Program 9th Floor, Jefferson Building P. O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri Date: August 18, 1986

Telephone: 314/751-5376

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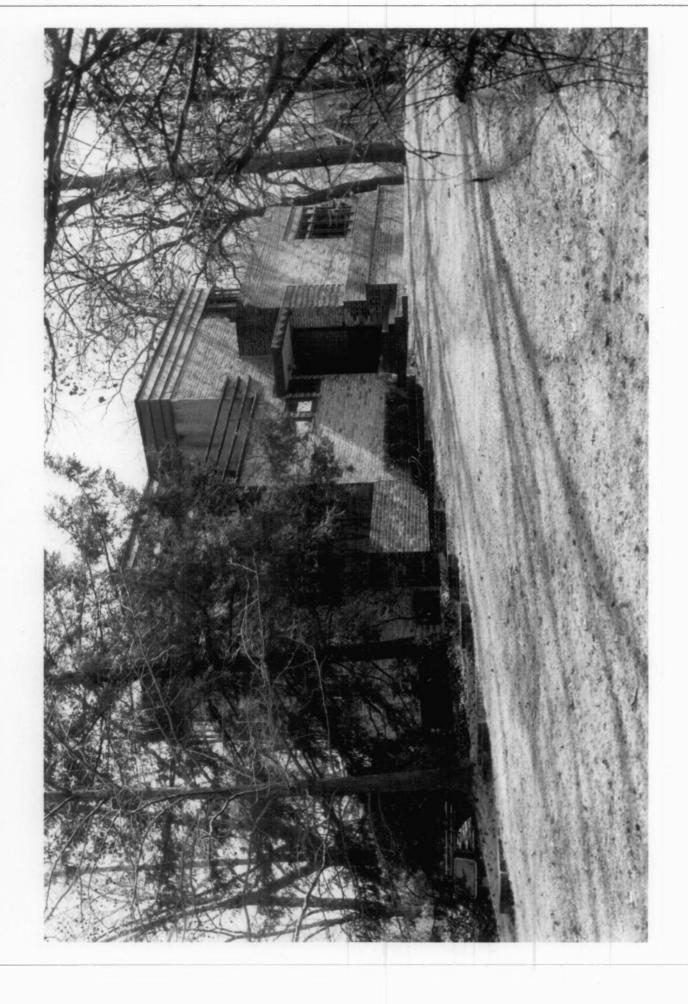
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CORI HOUSE 1080 North Berry Rd., Glendale, MO 63122

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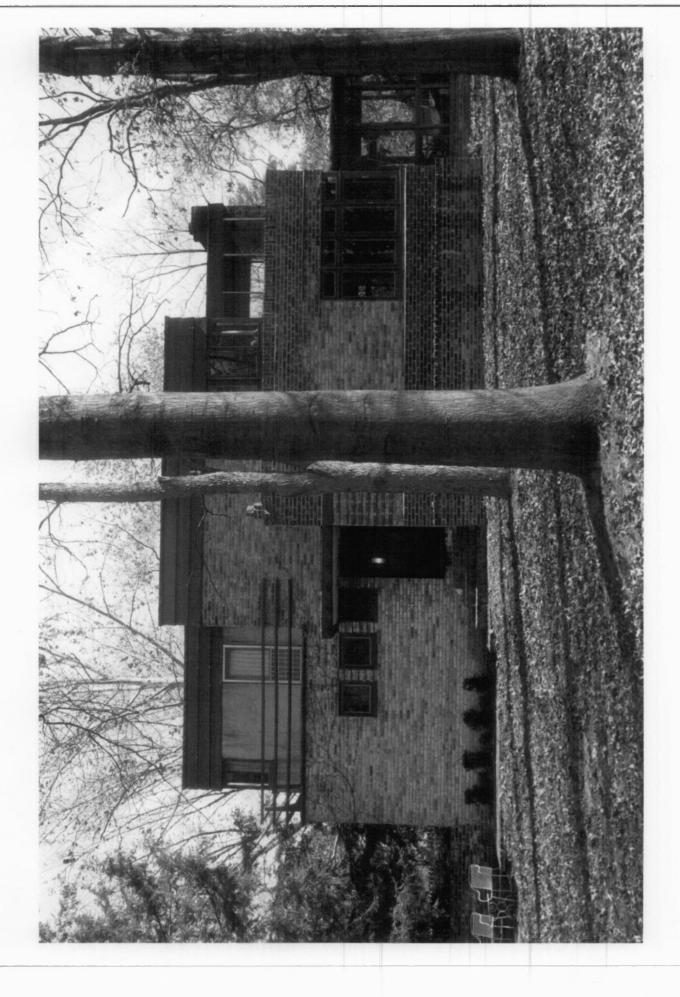
Front from northwest



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Photog: Esley Hamilton, January 1986 Neg.Loc.: St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation 41 S. Central Ave., Clayton, MO 63105

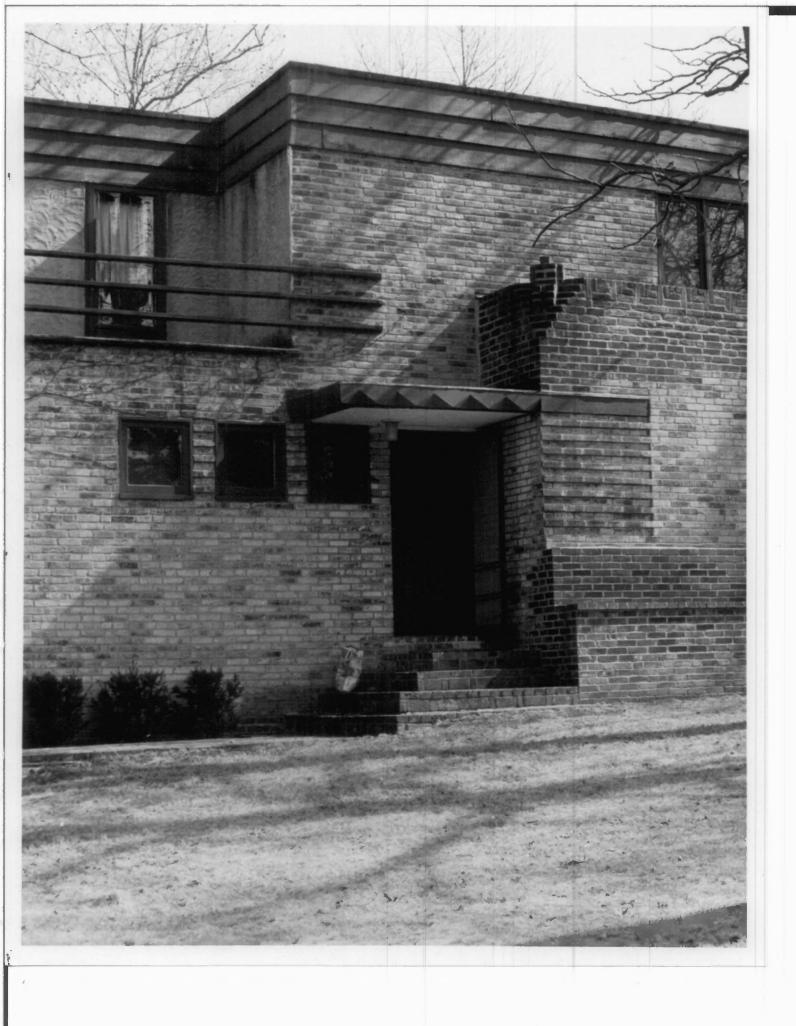
Front from west



CORI HOUSE 3 of 5 1080 North Berry Rd., Glendale, MO 63122

Photog: Esley Hamilton, January 1986
Neg.Loc.: St. Louis County Department of
Parks and Recreation
41 S. Central Ave., Clayton, MO 63105

Front entry from west



CORI HOUSE 4 of 5 1080 North Berry Rd., Glendale, MO 63122

Photog: Esley Hamilton, January 1986 Neg.Loc.: St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation 41 S. Central Ave., Clayton, MO 63105

Back from southeast



CORI HOUSE 5 of 5 1080 North Berry Rd., Glendale, MO 63122

Photog: Esley Hamilton, January 1986 Neg.Loc.: St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation 41 S. Central Ave., Clayton, MO 63105

Back from south southeast

